AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

A double inclusion of reference numeral 13 is in Figs. 3-5 for "Presence Clients" and a "Watcher User Agent". The drawings are amended so that "Presence Clients" are now identified by reference numeral 13' in Fig. 5. Also, the "Presentity User Agent 1" in Fig. 4 has been amended to "Presentity User Agent 11" and "RMS 11" in Fig. 5 has been amended to "RMS 15" to agree with the identification of the "RMS 15" in Fig. 6.

REMARKS

The present invention is a system for providing role-based presentity availability information to a watcher. The system includes at least one presentity user agent for issuing a request to register a presentity in at least one of a plurality of roles, and for generating context messages relating to changes in context of said presentity; at least one watcher user agent for issuing a role-based subscription request for said availability information; a presence service for maintaining role-based watcher subscriptions and issuing availability messages in response to generation of said context messages; and a role manager for (i) receiving each request to register a presentity in said at least one of said plurality of roles and in response managing presentity registration in said plurality of roles, and (ii) receiving each said role-based subscription request, and in response managing each role-based watcher subscription to said availability information within said presence service.

Presence systems are defined in the Field of the Invention as "for indicating the availability of a person for communication, and more particularly, to a method and apparatus for subscribing to the availability of the user in a particular role."

Moreover, the paragraph under the heading "Background of the Invention" (1) discusses a presence service as allowing the users of the service to subscribe to another person's availability; (2) users that view another person's availability are called watchers; (3) the user that projects their availability is called a presentity and (4) presentity is stated to be in conformance with definitions used in IETF RFC 2778. Therefore, it is seen that the present invention's usage of the above terminology is

defined in terms of entities which are known and described including by reference to RFC 2778 and the description in the specification.

The present invention differs from the prior art by providing roles in presence systems as set forth at the bottom of page 1, lines 31-34, of the specification. Moreover, the "Summary of the Invention" describes the present invention as follows:

> A key as aspect of the present invention is the capability to subscribe to a user's availability based on a role. As indicated above, this is a feature not available in current presence services. According to a first embodiment of the invention, a User-centered implementation of role availability is effected, whereas a second embodiment is a User-independent implementation. For both embodiments, role-based presence is deployed using a group entity communicating to a presence.

Claims 1-8 and 11-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication 2004/0019799 (Vering et al). As the Examiner is aware, a rejection based on anticipation must demonstrate that every limitation in the claims is literally present or inherently present given the claims the broadest reasonable interpretation which, as taught in the specification, must be consistent with presence systems as they are known in the art. These grounds of rejection are traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites:

> A system for providing role-based presentity availability information to a watcher, comprising:
>
> at least one presentity user agent for issuing a request to register a presentity in at least one of a plurality of roles, and for generating context messages relating to changes in context of said presentity;
>
> at least one watcher user agent for issuing a role-based subscription request for said availability information;

> a presence service for maintaining role-based watcher subscriptions and issuing availability messages in response to generation of said context messages; and
>
> a role manager for (i) receiving each request to register a presentity in said at least one of said plurality of roles and in response managing presentity registration in said plurality of roles, and (ii) receiving each said role-based subscription request, and in response managing each role-based watcher subscription to said availability information within said presence service.

It is submitted that there are a number of differences between the teachings of Vering et al and claim 1 which are discussed as follows.

First, Vering et al do not pertain to a system for providing role-based presentity available information to a watcher. Instead, Vering et al pertains to providing individuals access to stored role data entries in which the role data entries correspond to an assigned role of at least one of a plurality of individuals. Each role is taught to correspond to an enterprise with which the individual is associated and corresponds to a set of resources accessible through a computer system. A request for resources from one of the individuals determines whether the requested resource is included in a set of accessible resources corresponding to the assigned role of the requesting individual. See the Abstract and further paragraph [0004] of Vering et al.

The Examiner refers to paragraph [0004] as disclosing the first part of the first limitation "at least one presentity user agent for issuing a request to register a presentity in at least one of a plurality of roles." Presentities, as recited in claim 1, are not the subject matter of Vering et al. As stated above, role data entries correspond to an assigned role of at least one of a plurality of individuals and selectively permit access to the requested resource if the resource is determined to be a set of resources corresponding to the assigned role of the requesting individual.

However, it is submitted that paragraph [0004] does not disclose anything which a person of ordinary skill in the art would consider to be "at least one presentity user agent for issuing a request to register a presentity in at least one of a plurality of roles" when presentity is interpreted as known in the art. As taught in paragraph [0004], Vering et al provide access by an individual to resources, but such access does not relate or pertain to presence systems nor presentity as known in presence systems. If the Examiner persists in the stated grounds of rejection, it is requested that he specifically point out where any agent exists in Vering et al for issuing a request to register a presentity in at least one of a plurality of roles.

Additionally, the first limitation also recites "generating context messages relating to changes in context of said presentity". The Examiner relies on paragraph [0005] for this limitation. What paragraph [0005] describes are features which are provided in association with assigned roles. In the first place, the Examiner does not explain where a context message is found for any application, let alone "relating to changes in context of said presentity", which, as pointed out, is missing from the teachings of Vering et al. As may be noted from the specification of the present application, context changes are discussed on page 3, lines 25-31, where notification events are described as occurring any time a presentity's context changes which may be an activity, location, role or status.

Paragraph [0005] describes features which may be utilized in combination with the assigned roles of at least a plurality of individuals, but such features do not suggest generating context messages related to changing context of said presentity.

Claim 1 further recites "at least one watcher user agent for issuing a role-based subscription request for said availability information with the Examiner citing

paragraph [0032] of Vering et al. However, what is described in paragraph [0032] is a request for tools or information from a single resource, such as a workplace system 10. However, it is submitted that such requesting of tools or information does not meet the limitation of at least one watcher user agent for issuing the role-based subscription request for said availability information.

Claim 1 further recites, "a presence service for maintaining world-based watcher subscriptions in issuing availability messages in response to generation of said context messages" with the Examiner citing paragraph [0020] of Vering et al. Paragraph [0020] of Vering et al describes a role-based filter for determining available tools/information 14 based on an industrial category corresponding to a role. Moreover, the role-based filter is further taught as reducing and/or focusing the type of information as accessible on a role-based portal based upon an industry category. However, while teaching how individuals may obtain access to information, paragraph [0020] does not pertain to a presence service for maintaining role-based watcher subscriptions and issuing availability messages in response to generation of said context messages as recited earlier in claim 1.

Claim 1 further recites "a role manager for (i) receiving each request to register a presentity in said at least one of said plurality of roles and in response managing presentity registration in said plurality of roles" with the Examiner relying upon paragraphs [0004], [0005] and [0017]. Paragraphs [0004] and [0005] do not discuss role-based management in any context. Moreover, while paragraph [0017] does define "role-based" as referring to selectively granting limited access to tools and/or information from file 14 based upon an assigned role of an individual, such description does not meet a role manager for receiving each request to register a

presentity in said at least one of said plurality of roles in a response managing presentity registration in said plurality of roles.

Moreover, the role manager is further recited as "(ii) receiving each said role-based description request, and in response, managing each role-based watcher subscription to said available information within said presence service" with the Examiner relying upon paragraphs [0004], [0005] and [0009]. Neither paragraphs [0004] or [0005] pertain to a role-based subscription request and in response managing each role-based watcher subscription to said availability information within said presence service. Moreover, paragraph [0009] teaches the inclusion of resources being at least one of a tool, application file, file link and document. Moreover, it is described that the method may further include assigning a common set of resources to a plurality of assigned roles, each role corresponding to at least one individual and the method may further include controlling access to a common set of resources by a first individual assigned a controlling role. However, it is submitted that the referenced portions of Vering et al do not pertain to receiving role-based subscription requests, in response managing each role-based watcher subscription to said available information within said presence service. If the Examiner persists in the stated grounds of rejection, it is requested that he further correlate how paragraphs [0004], [0005] and [0009] meet the second function of the role manager as recited in claim 1.

Dependent claims 2-8 and 11-12 are further patentable for reciting additional limitations which are not taught by Vering et al once the deficiencies of Vering et al, as discussed above, with respect to claim 1, are considered.

Claims 9 and 13-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Vering et al in view of United States Patent 6,735,717 (Rostowfske et al). Rostowfske et al is cited as teaching a distribution computing system clustered model provided soft real-time responsiveness and continuous availability and a shared database in tuple space. However, Rostowfske et al do not cure the deficiencies noted above with respect to Vering et al.

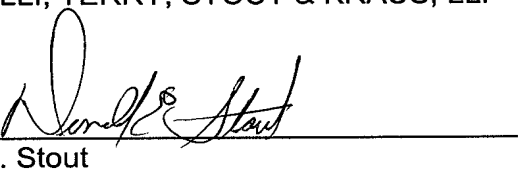
The specification and claims have been amended to improve their form for reexamination.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is submitted that each of the claims in the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (1375.42979X00) and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



Donald E. Stout
Registration No. 26,422
(703) 312-6600

Attachments

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